



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Announces it's Local Small Business Week Award Recipients

(San Diego, CA) – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will publicly honor local small business owners and advocates on Thursday, May 19, 2005, at the annual Small Business Awards Luncheon to be held at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina on Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego. SBA is co-sponsoring the event with San Diego's Regional Chamber of Commerce. One thousand attendees are expected to participate in the celebration.

Each year, the President of the United States designates one week to recognize the contributions of small business to the American economy. SBA's National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo are being held in Washington, D.C. April 25 - 28. For more information or for Expo registration, interested parties can visit the Expo website at <http://www.sba.gov/expo/index.html>.

SBA San Diego District Director George Chandler said, "As SBA begins its second 50 years, this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate those small businesses that have helped make our Nation great. Since its inception in 1953, SBA has helped well over 20 million Americans start, grow and expand their business – placing tens of billions of dollars in loans into the hands of entrepreneurs in all sectors of the economy. Small business is an enduring symbol of the American Dream." Chandler said, "Small Business Week recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to the nation's economy." Trade associations, chambers of commerce and business organizations typically nominate candidates. "SBA is proud to honor the men and women whose entrepreneurial spirit, dedication and hard work have helped to create jobs and fuel this economy. Small business represents 99 percent of all employers in America. Small business truly *is* where America works, and these successful small business owners and advocates deserve recognition for their achievements," said Chandler. "We are especially delighted to be co-sponsoring this event with San Diego's Regional Chamber of Commerce for the 25th consecutive year," he said.

###MORE###

2005 SBA AWARDS

SBA will present awards to the following San Diego area business owners and champions:

2005 Small Business Person of the Year

Avram Ninyo, Ninyo & Moore

Nominator: Don Pearson, Wells Fargo Bank & Kurt Chilcott, CDC Small Business Finance

2005 Women-Owned Small Business of the Year

Betty Hall, Canyon Creek Animal Hospital

Nominator: Terri Fraser, Fraser & Associates & SBDC North San Diego, Mira Costa College

2005 Family Owned Small Business of the Year

David & Ruby Konstantin, K-CO Construction Inc.

Nominator: Ken Clark, SBDITC, Southwestern College

2005 Minority Owned Small Business of the Year

Harold & Tina Lewis, JRL, LLC

Nominator: John Brackett, Wells Fargo Bank & Kurt Chilcott, CDC Small Business Finance

2005 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Robert Mulz, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Network

Nominator: Sudershan Shaunak, SBDC, North San Diego, Mira Costa College

2005 Delores Braswell Award: Advocating Women in Business

Lois Sudmeier, SCORE Counselors to America's Small Business

Nominator: Lisa Bentson, Leads Club/SCORE

2005 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Carmen Amigon, Community Housing Works

Nominator: Sudershan Shaunak, SBDC North San Diego, Mira Costa College

2005 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

Paul Hollenbach, Hollenbach & Associates/SCORE

Nominator: Rod Means, SCORE

2005 Financial Services Champion of the Year

William Martinez, Winston Real Estate/Southwestern College SBDITC

Nominator: Ken Clark, SBDITC, Southwestern College

2005 Small Business Lender of the Year

Kurt Chilcott

CDC Small Business Finance Corp.

2005 Small Business Lender of the Year

Rick Benito

Bank of America

##MORE##

Additional Awards at the Small Business Week Luncheon

The following additional awards will be presented at the May 19 small business week event, and added information on these winners will be provided when available:

- **The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce will recognize 5 outstanding San Diego area businesses.**
- **The San Diego Business Improvement District (BID) Council will recognize its BID Business of the Year, selected from this year's winners from each of San Diego's 18 BID's.**
- **San Diego area government procuring agencies will recognize their Contractors of the Year.**
- **San Diego area large prime contractors will recognize their small business Subcontractors of the Year.**

Small Business Week Awards Luncheon Seats Now Available

Luncheon seats are now available. For tickets to the event, please contact the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, which produces the Small Business Awards Luncheon in conjunction with the U.S. Small Business Administration. To register, please call the Chamber at (619) 544-1339, or register online at: www.sdchamber.org. For further information call (619) 544-1335.

Media is Invited to Small Business Week Awards Luncheon

Media attendance, participation and coverage of this special awards banquet are encouraged. Additional information on SBA's Small Business Week Awards program is available from SBA's Cynthia Harris at (619) 557-7250, extension 1155. (Lunch is complimentary for Media.)

*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640 or visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/ca/sandiego. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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NOTE: More detailed descriptions of each small business winner are available. Please call Cynthia Harris, SBA, at (619) 557-7250, extension 1155, if you would like to receive them.